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ANTI-RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES IN ROMANIA

During the first week in March 1945 Altenburg, German Minister in Vienna, is said to have made the following statement concerning the situation in Rumania after a detailed discussion with Horia Sima.

Horia Sima thought that certain civilian elements which had previously fought among themselves had joined in a force which had attracted even legionnaire circles. This development was a result of the steadily increasing pressure from Soviet-inspired communists in Rumania and had begun about November of last year, supported by the manifesto. Conclusive recognition of this civilian group, and a statement that the previous policy of continually giving in to the demands of the communists could only lead to the complete bolshevization of Rumania, had been added by Radescu to his well-known war message of 10 November. Radescu had been backed in this step by certain unofficial Anglo-American circles, since England would not dare to come out officially against the Soviets in Bucharest, but did work against bolshevism, at least secretly, in this way.

Horia Sima believed that, because of the opposition of Radescu and the civilian and military circles behind him, the Russians, after the purge of the general, would no longer dare move toward a complete realignment of matters in Rumania by way of a Russian-communist solution, but would permit a temporary governmental shuffle on the present basis of the national-democratic front.

Altenburg is said to have commented that Germany would have to wait to see whether Horia's conception was correct and to have pointed out that English and Russian radio reports concerning the situation in Rumania and the interpolations of the Soviet Control Commission seemed to hint that the Russians wanted to play up the situation in order to lead up to a ruthless, decisive action along their own lines.

Moreover, Horia Sima hoped for increased channelization of support toward the legionnaires and a strengthening of their influence as the only point in the country from which effective opposition could be marshaled against the process of bolshevization.

• Iron Guard Leader

• Possibly refers to Radescu's sentence.

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